

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 01397 050436Z

12

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05

IO-10 CU-02 PC-01 PPT-01 SCA-01 VO-03 /073 W

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P R 041125Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1630

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I U L KABUL 1397

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PK, AF

SUBJ: REPORTS OF BORDER CLOSING AND THE NOMAD SITUATION IN
S.E. AFGHANISTAN

REF: KABUL 1358 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING CONVERSATION BETWEEN AFAMEC DIRECTOR AND RAHMATULLAH MEHR (INFORMATION DEPT. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) WHICH LED TO REFTEL, EMBOFFS HAVE SPOKEN WITH MEHR AND WITH PAKISTAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS TO OBTAIN CLEARER PICTURE OF NOMAD SITUATION REPORTED PARA 1 REFTEL.

2. PAK DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR OFFICIALS SEEMED SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AT QUERY AS SPRING IS SEASON OF NOMADIC MOVEMENT INTO AFGHANISTAN AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITH BORDER CROSSING OF NOMADS USUALLY ARISE DURING FALL MIGRATION INTO PAKISTAN. PAK OFFICIALS REITERATED OFFICIAL GOP POLICY THAT ANY NON-NATIONAL ENTERING PAKISTAN NEEDS PASSPORT. THEY ALSO DISCLAIMED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF CURRENT TENSION AT BORDER BUT ON PERSONAL BASIS CONSIDERED UNLIKELY THAT PAK AUTHORITIES WOULD TRY TO STOP MOVEMENT OF NOMADS INTO AFGHANISTAN.

3. EMBOFF CALLED ON MEHR MARCH 4 TO ASK FOR CLARIFICATION
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PAGE 02 KABUL 01397 050436Z

OF NOMAD SITUATION. MEHR WAS SOMEWHAT HESITANT, STATING

THAT AS HE WORKED FOR INFORMATION DEPT OF MFA HE WAS NOT AN AUTHORITY ON NOMADS OR THE BORDER SITUATION BUT "HAD BEEN FOLLOWING MFA INSTRUCTIONS" IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH AFAMEC DIRECTOR. ON BEING PRESSED HE STATED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW OF CURRENT INSTANCES OF DIFFICULTY BETWEEN NOMADS AND PAK BORDER AUTHORITIES. AGAIN ACCORDING TO MEHR, PROBLEM WAS NOT WITH NOMADS PRESENTLY ATTEMPTING TO ENTER PAKISTAN OR AFGHANISTAN BUT WITH AFGHAN NOMADS WHO BECAUSE OF GOP POLICY HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO ENTER PAKISTAN LAST FALL, AND HAD WINTERED IN AFGHANISTAN. AS A CONSEQUENCE THEIR "NORMAL LIFE HAD BEEN SEVERELY DISRUPTED" AND THEY CONTINUED TO BE "VERY UPSET".

4. COMMENT: DESPITE APPARENT UNCONCERN OF PAK OFFICIALS HERE, WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED, GIVEN PRESENT STATE OF PAK/AFGHAN RELATIONS, IF AREA OF BORDER BETWEEN KANDAHAR AND QUETTA WERE UNDER CLOSER SCRUTINY BY PAK AUTHORITIES. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS TO US NEVERTHELESS THAT MFA OFFICIAL WAS USING BORDER ISSUE AS CONVENIENT PRETEXT (AT LEAST FOR PRESENT) FOR NOT ALLOWING FOREIGN SCHOLOR TO HAVE EXTENSIVE CONTACT WITH TRIBALS IN SENSITIVE AREA. THUS, BLAME IS SHIFTED TO PAKISTAN WITHOUT NEED TO ADMIT THAT AREA MAY BE SENSITIVE FOR OTHER REASONS.

5. IN VIEW OF THIS AND INFORMATION CONTAINED IN STATE 46949, EMBASSY IS PHRASING NEW MESSAGE FOR BALIKCI TO BE SENT TO AMCONSUL MONTREAL FOR ATTENTION OF BRANCH PAO. CURRAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750076-0522
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750385/aaaacysb.tel
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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